

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 MMO-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 TRSE-00 COME-00 MC-02 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7740

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OLSO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

JCS WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 8089

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BE

SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF SELECTED MAAGS

REF: STATE 201994

1. WE HAVE PASSED INFORMATION PARAS 1-3 REFTEL AND MADE TWO POINTS PARA 4 REFTEL TO BELGIAN FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL (LAGNEAUX) HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF PROGRESS AND CONTENT OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND ARMS EXPORT ACT OF 1976 BY BELGIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. ALSO OBVIOUS WAS THE FACT THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS BEEN CONSIDERING
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THE IMPLICATIONS OF THAT ACT.

3. LAGNEAUX' REACTION TO OUR PRESENTATION WAS TO NOTE THAT 1950 MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT, WHICH PROVIDES AUTHORITY FOR THE MAAG AND FOR A BELGIAN CONTRIBUTION TO PART OF MAAG EXPENSES, REQUIRES ONE YEAR ADVANCE NOTICE FOR UNILATERAL TERMINATION, OR TERMINATION WITHIN SHORTER PERIOD IF BOTH SIDES AGREE. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD COORDINATE WITH THE MOD WITH A VIEW TOWARDS PROPOSING A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY TERMINATION DATE AND ASKED THAT WE PROVIDE HIM WITH OUR PROPOSED TERMINATION DATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE DATE. HE SAID THAT AS THE BELGIAN CONTRIBUTION TO PART OF MAAG'S EXPENSES IS BASED ON ANNEX B OF THE 1950 AGREEMENT, WHICH IS AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT APPROVED BY THE BELGIAN PARLIAMENT, THE BELGIAN CONTRIBUTION WOULD END IF THE AGREEMENT WERE TERMINATED. HE SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY COULD NOT FORESEE ANY CHANCE THAT PARLIAMENT WOULD ACCEPT A NEW INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE A CONTRIBUTION FOR A NEW THREE MAN SECURITY ASSISTANCE OFFICE CREATED TO HANDLE RESIDUAL MAAG FUNCTIONS. LAGNEAUX ALSO POSED THREE QUESTIONS: 1) THE STATUS OF THE REMAINING MAAG PERSONNEL, WHICH HE SAID WOULD BE EASILY SOLVED; 2) HOW THE DISPOSAL OF MATERIAL FURNISHED UNDER MAP WOULD CONTINUE AS THIS SURPLUS WILL CONTINUE TO BECOME EXCESS TO BELGIAN NEEDS FOR YEARS TO COME; AND 3) HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT CONTINUE TO BE LIABLE FOR MAAG EXPENSES AFTER THE TERMINATION DATE. IN THIS CONNECTION HE SPECIFICALLY CITED THE RENT FOR THE MAAG OFFICES.

4. BELGIAN MOD AND MILITARY OFFICERS BRIEFED INCLUDED ADMIRAL VAN DYCK (C/S BELGIAN NAVY), LT. GEN. DEBECHE (C/S BAF), MGEN PUTTEMANS (VICE CHIEF JOINT STAFF), MGEN DIRIX (ASST C/S BELGIAN ARMY), AND COL. LEFEBVRE (ASST CHEF DE CABINET). SYNTHESIS OF THEIR REACTIONS INCLUDED: 1) EXPRESSIONS OF PLEASURE THAT THREE PERSONNEL WOULD REMAIN TO CARRY ON KEY SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS; 2) QUESTION ON COST TO BELGIUM OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION; 3) QUESTION ON CONFIDENTIAL

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COMPOSITION BY BRANCH OF SERVICE OF THREE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL, WITH COMMENT THAT BELGIAN'S MIGHT HAVE SUGGESTION TO MAKE IN THIS REGARD; AND 4) QUESTION ON WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO NEW SMALLER BUILDING OCCUPIED BY MAAG JULY 1, 1976, IN ORDER TO SAVE ON RENT. (PRESENT ONE YEAR RENEWABLE LEASE PROVIDES FOR TERMINATION UPON 90 DAY NOTICE UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.)

5. COMMENT: FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, THE KEY FACTOR TO PROTECT IS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE OFFICE. A BELGIAN FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE THAT OFFICE'S ABILITY TO PERFORM ITS REMAINING KEY FUNCTIONS. ONE OF THESE FUNCTIONS HAS ALREADY BEEN IDENTIFIED BY BELGIAN QUESTIONS: HOW WILL THE U. S. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MAP PROPERLY BE FULFILLED IN THE FUTURE? THE 1950 US-BELGIAN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN AMENDED ANNUALLY SINCE ITS INCEPTION BY AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES TO PROVIDE FOR BELGIAN FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS MAAG EXPENSES. THIS AMENDMENT DOES NOT REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF THE BELGIAN PARLIAMENT. WE SUGGEST THAT FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF THE REPLACEMENT OF THE MAAG BY A SECURITY ASSISTANCE OFFICE TO THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT (PROMISED PARA 5 REFTTEL) BE COINED IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE 1950 AGREEMENT BE AMENDED BUT NOT ABROGATED, IF POSSIBLE, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE 1976 ACT. WE CANNOT BE SURE THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD OR COULD LEGALLY ACCEPT SUCH A FORMULATION, IN LIGHT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S INITIAL REACTION, BUT WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE EFFORT IS WORTHWHILE. RENNER

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